

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MANILA 08911 081054Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----081102Z 112756 /12
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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 920

S E C R E T MANILA 8911

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EXDIS

FOR HOLBROOKE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI, SHUM, RP
SUBJECT: MUZZLING OF GUARD DOGS

REF: (A) PARIS 16213; (B) MANILA 8041

1. IN REF A YOU INQUIRED WHY CLARK DOES NOT MUZZLE ITS DOGS AS SUBIC DOES. ACTUALLY, THE INFORMATION THAT WE NOW HAVE FROM THE BASES IS THAT NONE OF THE DOGS AT EITHER INSTALLATION IS MUZZLED. THE ADVICE IN PARA 2 OF REF B THAT SOME OF THE SUBIC DOGS ARE MUZZLED (WHICH WAS BASED ON INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM THE BASES) IS NOT CORRECT.

2. WHEN THE RECENT SPATE OF DOG BITING INCIDENTS FIRST CAME TO LIGHT, I CONSULTED WITH CINCPAC'S REP AT SUBIC AND SUGGESTED THAT THE GUARD DOGS AT THE TWO BASES BE MUZZLED AT LEAST AS A TEMPORARY MEASURE UNTIL EMOTIONS COOLED AND WE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY WHAT REASONABLE STEPS MIGHT BE TAKEN TO RESOLVE THIS PROBLEM. THE BASE COMMANDERS HAVE DECLINED TO MUZZLE THEIR DOGS SINCE, THEY ASSERT, A MUZZLED GUARD DOG BECOMES TOTALLY PASSIVE AND INEFFECTIVE. HOWEVER, THE BASES HAVE GONE INTO WHAT MIGHT
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BE CALLED A "LOW-PROFILE MODE" WITH RESPECT TO THE USE OF GUARD DOGS FOR AN INTERIM PERIOD. THAT IS, THEY HAVE PULLED THE DOGS BACK FROM CERTAIN AREAS AND ARE BEING EXTRA CAUTIOUS AND ECONOMICAL IN THEIR EMPLOYMENT FOR THE TIME BEING.

3. YOU WILL HAVE SEEN (SEPTTEL) THAT THE PHILIPPINE GOVERN-

MENT HAS NOW FORMALLY AND STRONGLY PROTESTED THE USE OF
GUARD DOGS AT THE BASES AND HAS DEMANDED THAT THIS
"ATROCIOUS" PRACTICE BE REPLACED BY MORE EFFECTIVE AND
HUMANE METHODS. YOU MAY WISH TO PURSUE THIS PROBLEM WITH
YOUR COUNTERPARTS AT DEFENSE. IF MUZZLING IT OUT OF THE
QUESTION, I KNOW OF NO ALTERNATIVE STEPS RESPECTING
PERIMETER SECURITY WHICH MIGHT BE TAKEN IN THE IMMEDIATE
FUTURE TO DEFUSE THIS EMOTIONAL SITUATION OTHER THAN THE
SUGGESTIONS IN MANILA 8041 TO BRING FILIPINO GUARDS INTO
THE CLARK PATROL DOG PROGRAM (AS IS NOW THE CASE AT SUBIC),
AND TO BRING GREATER FILIPINO PARTICIPATION INTO SECURITY
OPERATIONS ON THE BASE PERIMTERS. IN THE LONGER RUN,
I SUSPECT WE COULD SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVE OUR BASE SECURITY
AND PSYCHOLOGICAL POSTURE BY ADVANCED SENSOR SYSTEM
INSTALLATIONS.
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Message Attributes

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